

## **Summary of Changes Leading to Fifth Staff Draft Delta Plan**

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**Summary:** The authors will discuss with Council members the attached reports on the development of the first five drafts of the Delta Plan, as well as a summary of public comments on those drafts compiled by general interest category. This item is presented for information and discussion in preparation for more detailed discussions about the sixth draft Delta Plan at the Council's February 9-10 and 23-24 meetings.

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### **Background**

The Council, state and federal agencies, and stakeholders to date have reviewed and provided comments and direction for five staff drafts of the Delta Plan, resulting in hundreds of individual comment letters and thousands of specific comments. After the February 2 close of the comment period for the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the Council will review EIR comments as well as comments on fifth staff draft and discuss changes and direction to staff for a sixth draft to be released in March.

To begin preparation for those discussions, staff commissioned the two attached reports to review the development of the first five drafts and to summarize by broad interest category the comments received to date. The reports do not reflect comments made during the 90-day EIR comment period.

Authors of the reports, John Kirlin and Bob Twiss, are part of the consulting team for the Delta Plan, and were involved in writing the first two drafts of the Delta Plan. In addition, Kirlin served as Executive Director and Dr. Twiss as a consultant for the Delta Vision effort.

### **Changes in Staff Draft Delta Plans**

This report analyzes the evolution of the various drafts, based on the written record and has two goals: (a) an accurate rendering of the main features of the staff draft Delta Plans and how they evolved over time; and (b) analysis of how the major themes expressed in comments on the five staff drafts were reflected in the development of the staff draft documents.

Changes are analyzed chapter-by-chapter, and the report then draws summary and broad conclusions intended to help guide Council discussion and direction for the sixth staff draft.

### **Major Themes in Comments on Staff Drafts of Delta Plan**

This report analyses number and content of comments, based on the written record and not on testimony at Council meetings or work sessions, organized by broad interest-

group category. It also takes note of the comments offered by the Delta Independent Science Board.

In general, the report notes that common across almost all interest groups was a stated commitment to achieving the coequal goals, as well as desire to be affected minimally by the Delta Plan and the actions of the Council. Common, too, was desire for the Delta Plan and actions of the Council to protect or advance the interests of those making comments, and a concern that the Council may not have the technical expertise to grasp and address the extreme complexity of the Delta's natural and human-created systems.

The groups differed, however, about their understandings of relevant physical, biological and human-created systems and their future dynamics; interests (public and private); and preferred arenas for resolving conflicts.

In addition, there were few comments on two key elements of the Plan: long-term risk reduction, and science and adaptive management. And, while Delta as Place was the subject of many comments, the goals and methods of achieving them were submerged in concerns about loss of control and the conflicts between competing land uses (especially ecosystem restoration vs. agriculture, and local control of land use decisions vs. regional and state needs).

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1: Changes in Staff Draft Delta Plans

Attachment 2: Major Themes in Comments on Staff Drafts of Delta Plan

### **Contact**

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